FANTASY SHRINE
SCANLATIONS®

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RELEASES WILL BE DONE ON MONDAYS. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE POSTED ON BAKA-UPDATES, FS WEBSITE OR ANYWHERE ELSE. PLEASE DON'T POST ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR PROJECTS ANYWHERE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND ENJOY THIS WEEK'S RELEASE!

We heard it's someone special's birthday!

We really wanted to bake you
a rum cake... but... we drank all
the rum and forgot about it ~So we
thought this would be a fair exchange...

Happy birthday, Dear [illegible]!

xoxo, FS Staff

Happy Birthay ASH!!!
(We specifically told them to wait for you!
Guess your cake was just too irresistible...
just like you are! Enjoy it with them! ^-^)
LOVE,
YOUR FS
FAMILY

Happy Bday, Ash!
Happy Birthday, Ash!
Happy Bday, Ash!

BIRZ COMICS

LYNX COLLECTION

うつしみの花 上

タカヒサ享

BIRZ COMICS

LYNX COLLECTION

うつしみの花 上

タカヒサ享

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During the Asuka period (538-710), Tasuna was sold by his stepfather to a local rich man. Fleeing from such a fate, Tasuna went to the mountain in search of Azeri, the master goldsmith who used to practice the craft in the Capital with his late father. When Tasuna collapsed from exhaustion, he was rescued by a man who seemed unfeeling—!?

リンクスコレクション 既刊好評発売中!

86刊／620円(本体価格590円)

こちらワンワン警備保障七班 秋山こいと
Life of Green 亜真野なな
cherry 一直れもん
ロボ色に染まれ! 伊藤悠人
警備改造のススメ 今井恵子
永遠の七月 大槻ミゥ
DOLCE 北沢きょう
すくすく好き好き 北沢莉二カ
花冠の恋 小池マルミ
お留がないっ 1~7 藤田 遥 原作／瀬崎一樹
花は警備に残しる 小篠恵奈 原作／榎平ハルモ
はしってゆけどこまでも 小椋ゆほる
恋する警の警法警警 鳥居らび
月籠 佐々木久美子
君を迎えに 遠月かいり
うつしみの花 上・下 タカヒサ事
警備小説家の嫁 タクミユウ
27者に恋をささやいて 藤ケイコ
警備恋警 DUO BRAND
Puppy★ 逆井ゆこ
警きしめて 藤田かつら
月のかけら 花田マコ
朱雀れ五警に恋る警警は 藤トモキ
かわいい悪警 藤目ヒロ
日々恋々 神井りんご
コルセーア1~2 藤藤えりい 原作／水壬楓子
君の名は警警ちる警の仕警 みろくことこ
Wild Rose 山岸ほくと
ディアマイミスター 山田史佳
little bird☆little love 雪野ツナコ
恋する警法の警 ゆのはら恵子
Blood Honey 夜桜左京
Nagaraja Leo

タカヒサ事
TOHJI TAKAHISA

This is my first attempt at historical theme. Please enjoy.

DOB Oct 28

Sign: Scorpion

Blood Type: ?

Hometown: Kyoto

Likes:
Manga, history and travel

Dislikes
winter and tall buildings

Recent News
I have my stand-alone volume out and my series is currently running in the magazine
I'm really happy!

COVER DESIGN 清水警湯（CoCo Design）

OK, can you guess who they are?
before in Baekje
A noble
A lady
An apprentice in the palace

after in Wa

They're not husband and wife
Were both old now
You weren't even born yet in the previous page
WOBBLE

Eternal Flower Book One

TOHRU TAKAHISA
タカヒサ トオル

DRAMATIC BOY'S LOVE COMICS

BIRZ COMICS LYNX COLLECTION

CONTENTS

Eternal Flower

Tohru Takahisa
presents

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Eternal Flower ch1

Scanner: Easykit
Translator: Lori
Proodreader: SD
Editor: Lovemode
Qcers: Lori & Easykit

FANTASY SHRINE
SCANLATIONS

Translation Notes:

Asuka Period (飛鳥時代) & Baekje (百濟)

The Asuka period was a period in the history of Japan lasting from 538 to 710. It's known for its significant artistic, social, and political transformations, largely affected by the arrival of Buddhism from Baekje (Korea), which ultimately originated in India and spread to China. The Asuka period is also distinguished by the change in the name of the country from Wa (倭) to Nihon (日本).

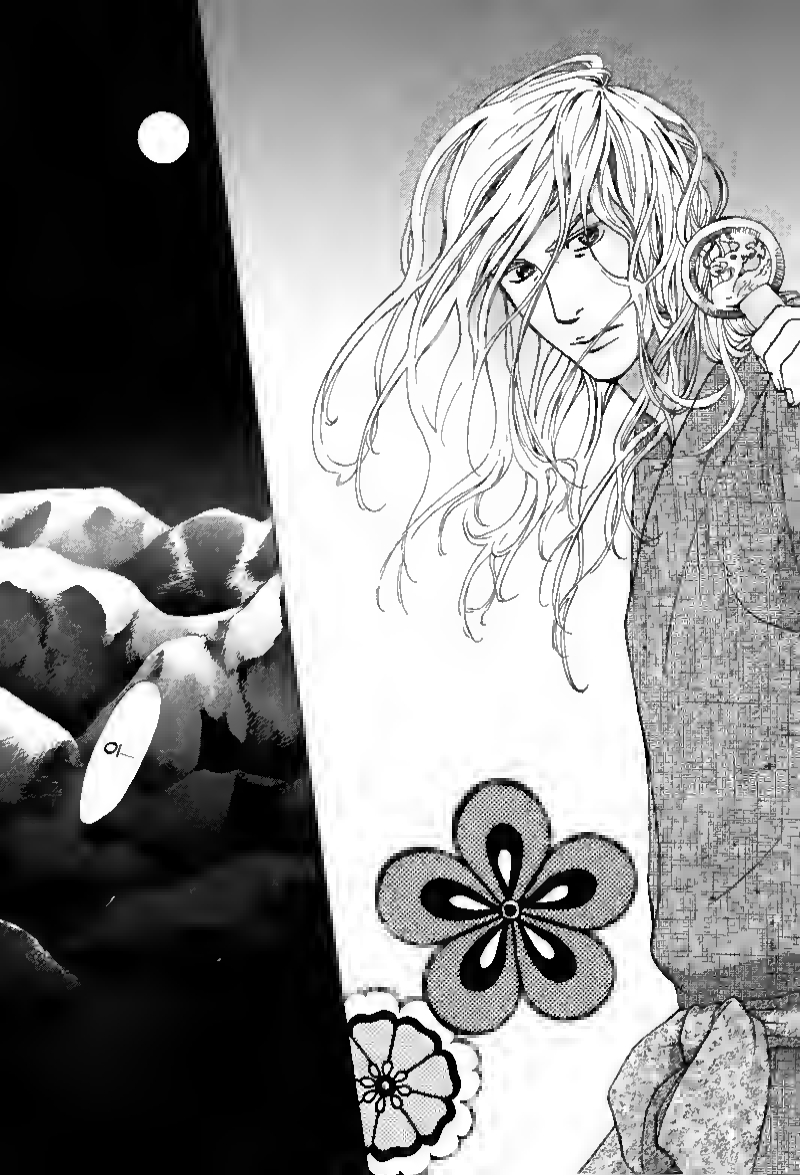
Baekje was a kingdom located in southwest Korea between 18BC to 660. Baekje artists adopted many Chinese influences and synthesized them into a unique artistic tradition. Buddhist themes are extremely strong in Baekje artwork. Both Baejke and Wa people practiced tattoos.

The crown prince in the story, Prince Katsuragi, later became the 38th emperor of Japan.

Kamako was a friend and supporter of Prince Katsuragi. After the crown prince became Emperor Tenji, Kamako was awarded his own clan, Fujiwara, in honor of his dedication.

TASUNA,
IF YOU EVER WANT TO FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS TO BECOME A GOLD-SMITH,
YOU SHOULD GO TO NARAYA MOUNTAIN AND LOOK FOR A MAN NAMED AZERI.
WE USED TO STUDY UNDER THE SAME MASTER IN THE CAPITAL.
HE CAN TEACH YOU AMAZING THINGS!
when life was good
That was what my father told me when he was still alive,
ETERNAL FLOWER - ONE

ETERNAL FLOWER
ONE


이

C'mon out—
Oooi—
ANY SIGN OF HIM?
NOPE, NOT AT ALL.
WE MUST FIND HIM AND TAKE HIM BACK
OR IWAREHIKO-SAN WILL HAVE OUR HEADS ON A PLATTER!
ha
ha
THUMP
THUMP
TASUNA!
WHERE'RE YOU, TASUNA?
THUMP

HERE!
TOSS
THERE YOU ARE, TASUNA!
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER ME?
RUSTLE
WHAT'RE YOU YELLING AT?
On that day
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
my step-father was suspiciously nice to me!
HE'S SETTING OUT FOR A HUNTING TRIP TOMORROW AND WILL STOP BY OUR VILLAGE.
IT'S FROM IWAREHIKO-SAN!
HEHE.
THIS IS A FINE GARMENT!
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS FROM?
WOW!

I must get outta here...
rustle
rustle
LET'S GO LOOK OVER THERE!
I mustn't be found!
DO YOU SEE HIM?
I've had a very bad feeling about it from the start.
GASP
Which is why
What does he want with me?
I don't recall ever talking to him.
However he has a notorious reputation
Iwarehiko is the richest man in the area
TASUNA WILL WEAR THAT AND BE HIS GUIDE.
FOR A HUNTING TRIP?
THAT CHILD CAN INDEED HELP HIM WITH THAT.

I waited for Iwarehiko at the place where my step-father told me to go...
I TO NARAYA MOUNTAIN
Haa
Haa
I must run as far away from here as possible...
AND GET TO NARAYA MOUNTAIN!
dash
NOW!
I see tracks leading into the mountain!
Oi—
Wait there! I'm coming!

and realized my suspicion was right...
HELP
NO ONE WILL COME TO YOUR RESCUE!
POUNCE
UGH!
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE MINE!
EH...?
POOR BABY!
BLAME IT ON YOUR STEPFATHER.
HE EXCHANGED YOU FOR TAXES!

IN OTHER WORDS, HE SOLD YOU TO ME!
Haa
RIP
STOP...
LET GO!
GRAB
fondle
OR WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE!
BUT, YOU'LL NEVER BE HUNGRY AGAIN
...IF THIS IS THE PRICE I HAVE TO PAY...

I'D RATHER DIE...!
YOU WANNA DIE?
IF YOU DON'T OBEY, I'LL HAVE YOU KILLED!
After 3 days,
I finally escaped from Iwarehiko's grasp!

How many days have I been on the run?
Haa
Haa
Am I...
crack
crack
Haa
Haa
almost there?
I hope so, otherwise,
collapse
my feet can no longer carry me...
DIZZY
URGH!

rustle

Where am I...?

crackle

crackle

Oh... It's so warm...
NII-CHAN!
Omoshi?
But I can't go back home...
anymore...
WHERE ARE YOU, NII-CHAN?
Tazu, Akame...
I'm sorry!
BLINK
hazy ~~
stare
What's that?
turn
Something heavy is covering me...

Wow!
WHERE IN THE WORLD AM I?
SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE, HUH?
GASP

WHO...
WHO ARE YOU?
I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO LIVES HERE!
YOU COLLAPSED ON THE ROAD SO I BROUGHT YOU HERE.
SLUGGISH
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER? CAN YOU SIT UP?
HERE
IT'S HERB BROTH.
T... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ER...
I'M TASUNA, FROM OUMI.
OUMI?
ER... I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE CLOTHES ON MY BACK...
SO YOU MUST HAVE A PURPOSE COMING HERE?
WHERE'S YOUR BELONG-INGS?
THAT'S DAYS AWAY ON FOOT!
He doesn't look like a bandit
I—
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
Who is he?
DO YOU KNOW A PERSON NAMED AZERI?
NO... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

What should I do now?
OH... IS THAT SO?
If he isn't here then... I don't know where else to look for him...
I don't know what he looks like.
LONG AGO, HE USED TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS CRAFT MASTER IN THE CAPITAL!
I WAS TOLD HE LIVES AROUND HERE!
ER...
WAIT!
What if he's no longer living...!?
...AH!

I know I have so little to go on
but I must work with what I have.
TURN
I ALREADY SAID I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM!
BUT
THIS IS NARAYA MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?
PLEASE TELL ME, ISN'T THIS NARAYA MOUNTAIN?
swoosh
YES,
No matter how difficult,

THIS IS THE NARAYA MOUNTAIN.
I must question him closely for more clues!
IT'S WINDY OUT.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED YET. YOU SHOULD GO INSIDE.
GASP
TATTOO !?

Come to think of it...
THE TATTOO ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK...
THAT'S ...
THE SAME TATTOO AS MY FATHER'S?
Who else would live in this remote mountain
ARE YOU...

ARE YOU AZERI-SAMA!?
besides him?
IT'S HIM...!
SLUMP
FOUND HIM!
...YES, YOU FOUND ME!

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE FROM THE CAPITAL AND TRYING TO MAKE ME GO BACK.
WHY DID YOU LIE?
.....
MAKE YOU GO BACK ...?
Ah
That's right!
I do remember my father mentioned something about that.
ER...
AZERI
INJURED HIS RIGHT HAND
SO HE LEFT THE CAPITAL
THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO MOURNED THE WASTE OF SUCH AN AMAZING TALENT!!

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
THIS IS...
MY FATHER'S.
YOU'RE ...
TATSUTO'S SON!?
YES!
SO, TATSUTO ALREADY ...
PASSED AWAY 5 YEARS AGO DUE TO AN EPIDEMIC.

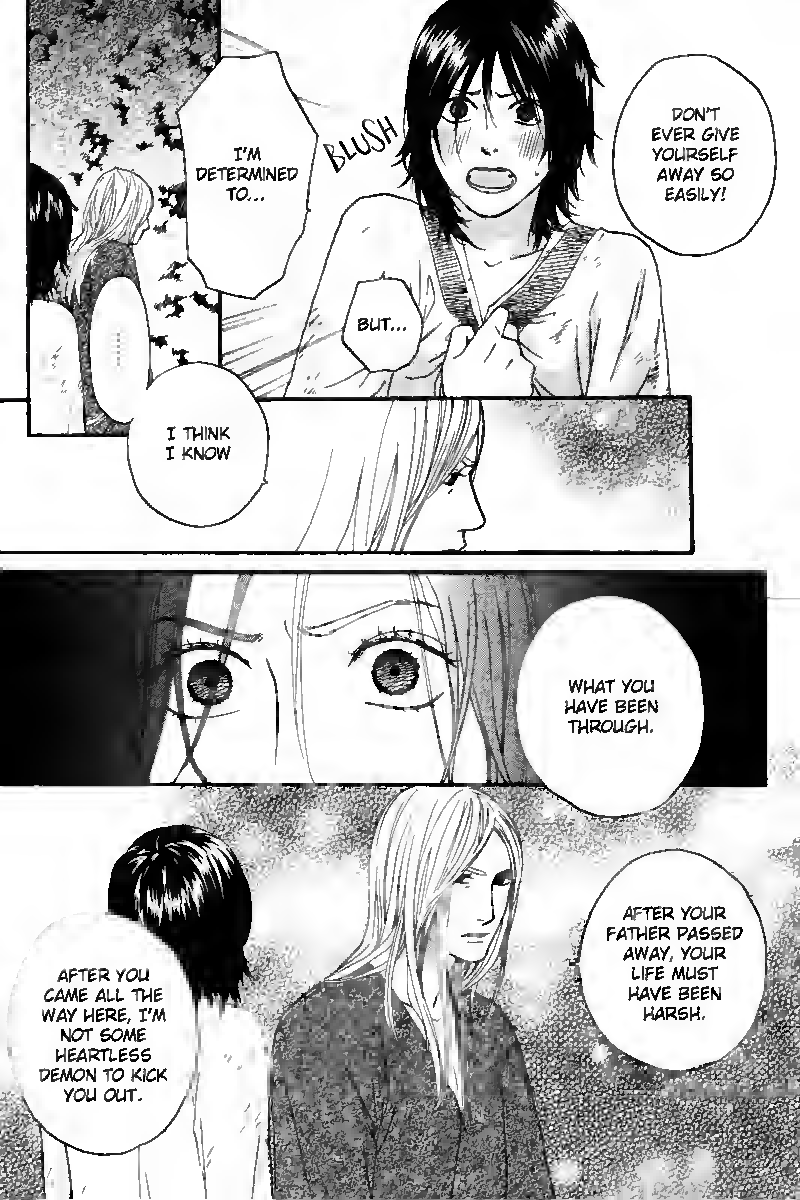
PLEASE
MY FATHER
LET ME BECOME YOUR APPRENTICE!
TOLD ME THAT I COULD FIND YOU HERE!
I WANT TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!!
and wanted to do the same thing when I grow up!
always watch my father working on his craft
I used to

Even though I had to bury that dream after Father passed away, it's always there in my heart!
And now, that dream is all I have!
PLEASE!
I'LL DO ANYTHING!
I CAN FARM AND I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTER
IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH ...
SO I CAN ALSO COOK AND DO ALL THE CHORES.
Everything else isn't important!
I CAN ALSO SERVE YOU IN BED!

POUNCE
THUMP
CLENCH
I have nothing to lose.
OH?
GRAB
WHAT A GREAT HONOR YOU'RE BESTOWING ON ME!

THUMP
IN THIS DEEP MOUNTAIN,
IT IS VERY INCONVENIENT TO FIND A PARTNER!
THUMP
AND YOU'RE OFFERING A VERY NICE VESSEL!

AH...
CLENCH
PLEASE...
GASP
DON'T INSULT ME.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FORCING MYSELF
ESPECIALLY ON A YOUNG BOY.


I'M DETERMINED TO...
BLUSH
DON'T EVER GIVE YOURSELF AWAY SO EASILY!
BUT...
.....
I THINK I KNOW
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH.
AFTER YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY, YOUR LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN HARSH.
AFTER YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, I'M NOT SOME HEARTLESS DEMON TO KICK YOU OUT.

With that,
YOU CAN STAY IF YOU WANT,
quiver
JUST DON'T BEHAVE SO FORMALLY.
I...
I can stay...
I finally snapped!
And all the sadness I suppressed in me came pouring out!

Until now, I've shoved it inside and concentrated on living!
I can't afford to mourn about my losses!
All the hardships,
sad memories,
helplessness,
and loneliness!
And now,
I'm finally no longer afraid!
Oi!
hick
sob
UMM!

...TH—
I have no idea
that
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
TASUNA!
MY TRAINING IS VERY HARSH!
I would find happiness again!
I DON'T CARE!

UTSUSHIMI NO HANA
B
KAHISA.TOORU
CHAPTER 2

Credits
Scanner: Everyfat
Translator: Lost
Proofreader: Lost, SD
Editor: Yuu
QC: Abigail & Lost & Everyfat

うつしみの花
ETERNAL FLOWER
其の弐
TWO

crackle
crackle
I've been studying engraving and craft from my master
Three years have passed
FIRE IT UP MORE
He was once a goldsmith craft master
but now, he makes farming tools for a living
PUMP
PUMP
crackle
and also assisting him with his work.
YES.

BY THE WAY,
DID YOU FINISH THE ENGRAVING?
however...
AH!
YES!
blank
HERE IT IS.
.....
START OVER AGAIN!
my path is treacherous!

My master is always like this!
YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
My master is always like this!
crackle
crackle
What in the world is wrong with it...?
KLONK
I had already learned the basics from my late father.
KLONK
KLONK
crackle
It took a long time
KLONK
but my engraving has become very precise.

Sky
Cloud...
The shape of the cloud...
But,
even that
isn't enough to satisfy my master.
Just more precision isn't enough...?

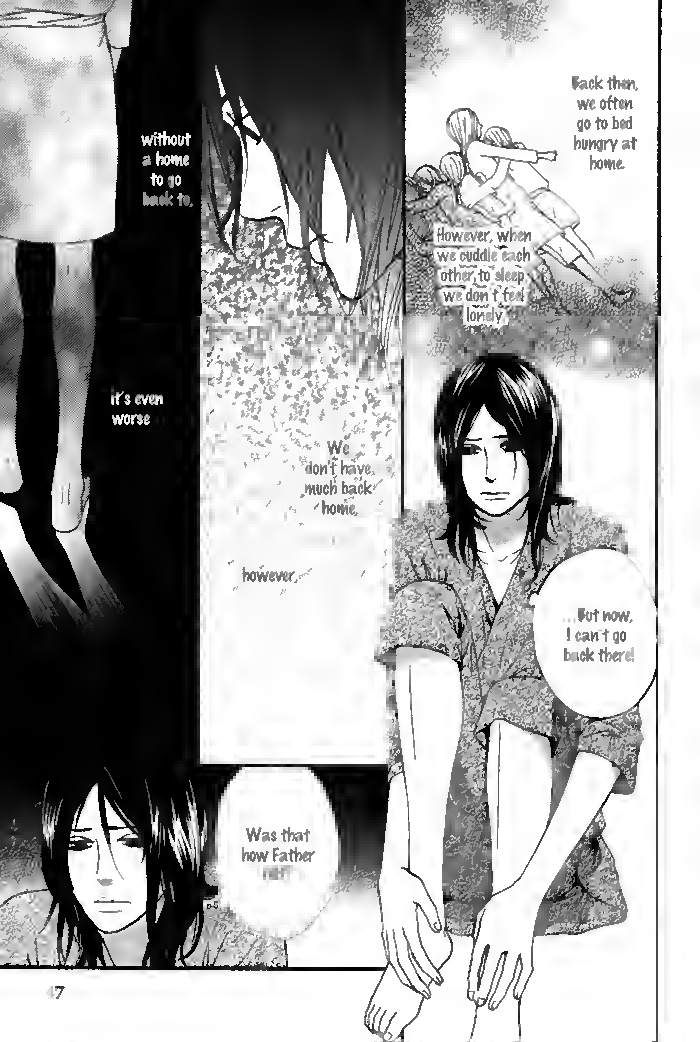
Why is it
we always use the same shape of cloud?
Even birds, flowers and dragons all seem to follow the same basic patterns
which I faithfully follow
DAD,
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU HAVE A BIRD ON YOUR NECK.
OH? YOU MEAN THE PHOENIX
IT'S THE SYMBOL OF OUR CLAN IN BAEKJE IT'S THE PROOF THAT I'M FROM THERE
BAEKJE?
This
phoenix and lotus seal
what does it mean~?

Baekje
YES,
IT'S MY HOME COUNTRY THAT I COULDN'T RETURN TO
YOU'RE HALF BAEKJE, TOO!
When Dad made this, what was his feeling ...?
The home country that he couldn't return to...
Ah...
I see!
I've been...
Jakt

MASTER,
WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
YOU ALREADY MADE ANOTHER ONE? THAT WAS QUICK.
concentrating on accurate lines and precise designs!
I've never thought of the meaning behind those designs!

THE ARRANGEMENT, COMPOSITION AND PATTERNS ARE NOT BAD
YOU THOUGHT OF THIS?
YES
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT
MMM
Wow... I'm being praised for the first time...!

He didn't tell me to give up
so I might have some talent in this!
I'm so happy ...
LET'S CALL IT A DAY
IT'S GETTING LATE
YES
...Yikes. it got so cold all of a sudden...
SHUUUU
I hope my brothers and sister are alright ..
During winter there're so many people dying from hunger or cold
especially the elders and the children. .
This is the season
I hate the most!


without a home to go back to.
it's even worse...
We don't have much back home,
however,
Was that how Father felt?
Back then, we often go to bed hungry at home.
However, when we cuddle each other to sleep, we don't feel lonely.
...But now, I can't go back there!

Squirm/
Squirm
BECAUSE IT'S COLD...
SO WE ALL SLEEP CUDDLING EACH OTHER DURING WINTER
BACK HOME WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BLANKETS
Then
does Master feel the same way?
MASTER...
WHAT?
CAN I SLEEP WITH YOU...?
WHY?
SLOMP
Flinch
FINE, BUT ONLY WHEN IT'S COLD

I thought I would be afraid to be touched.
However
N-NO!
...WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE?
Actually,
ON THE CONTRARY!
GOOD.

Why does it feel so good to be enveloped in his arms?
hug
thump
I wish
Be still my heart
thump
flutter
that dawn would never come
... DON'T CLING TO ME SO TIGHT

OTHERWISE, I CAN'T SLEEP
brush
BAEKJE
ARE YOU FROM BAEKJE?
MASTER,
YOU SAW MY TATTOO, REMEMBER?
ER... YES
ER...
squirm
how mischievous he could be at times..!
I forgot

*ANCIENT NAME OF JAPAN
I JUST WANNA MAKE SURE
ACTUALLY,
I WAS VERY SMALL WHEN WE CAME HERE
SO I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH BACK THEN
OH?
WE FLED TO WA* DURING THE WAR
THAT'S THE SYMBOL OF OUR CLAN, A GROUP OF SKILLED ARTISANS
DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK?
...YEAH,
...TO BAEKJE.
THAT'S THE DEAREST WISH OF OUR CLAN

WE EARN OUR KEEP IN WA JUST THE SAME WAY.
I DON'T MIND LIVING IN WA
HOWEVER,
THERE-FORE...?
DON'T YOU SEE?
WHEN WE FIRST MOVED HERE, OUR SKILLS WERE VERY UNIQUE TO THE WA PEOPLE
HOWEVER, IF NEW IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE WITH NEWER TECHNIQUES, OUR SKILLS WOULD BE DANGEROUSLY OBSOLETE!
THEY WOULD BE BORED WITH US.
LIVING CONDITION?
...OUR LIVELIHOODS ARE SKILLS THAT OUR ANCESTORS TAUGHT US.
THAT'S OUR CLAN'S TRADE. WITHOUT IT, WE'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE.
GRANTED, THIS ISN'T OUR HOME COUNTRY.
BUT AS LONG AS WA AND BAEKJE AREN'T IN WAR, WE SHOULD BE SAFE
THE LIVING CONDITION IS NO DIFFERENT...

WE HAVE TO KEEP REINVENTING OURSELVES!
THEREFORE, WE MUSTN'T STICK TO THE OLD WAYS!
JUST A PAIR OF CLEVER HANDS ISN'T ENOUGH
WITH NEWER, FRESHER DESIGNS AND SKILLS.
WE MUST KEEP IMPROVING OURSELVES
YOU GOT IT?
OUR CRAFTSMEN ENGRAVE FLOWERS AND ANIMALS THAT THE WA PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
EVEN THE WESTERNERS ARE COLLECTING BAEKJE PIECES
YES!

...YOU MEAN LIKE THOSE WALL CARVINGS?
THAT'S RIGHT
LION,
TIGER,
ELEPHANT
THEY REALLY ALL EXIST,
OVER THERE?
ELEPHANTS ARE TWO MEN'S HEIGHT

IF YOU GO TO THE CAPITAL AND GET SELECTED TO STUDY ABROAD,
YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO TO THE MAINLAND
NO WAY!
You're kidding
Haha
I'M NOT!
THEIR TECHNOLOGIES ARE MUCH MORE ADVANCED
SO YOU MUST STUDY HARD!
I'LL GO STUDY IN THE CAPITAL
AND FIND A WAY TO GO TO BAEKJE!
WOULDN'T THAT BE AWESOME IF WE CAN GO TOGETHER, MASTER?
THEN,

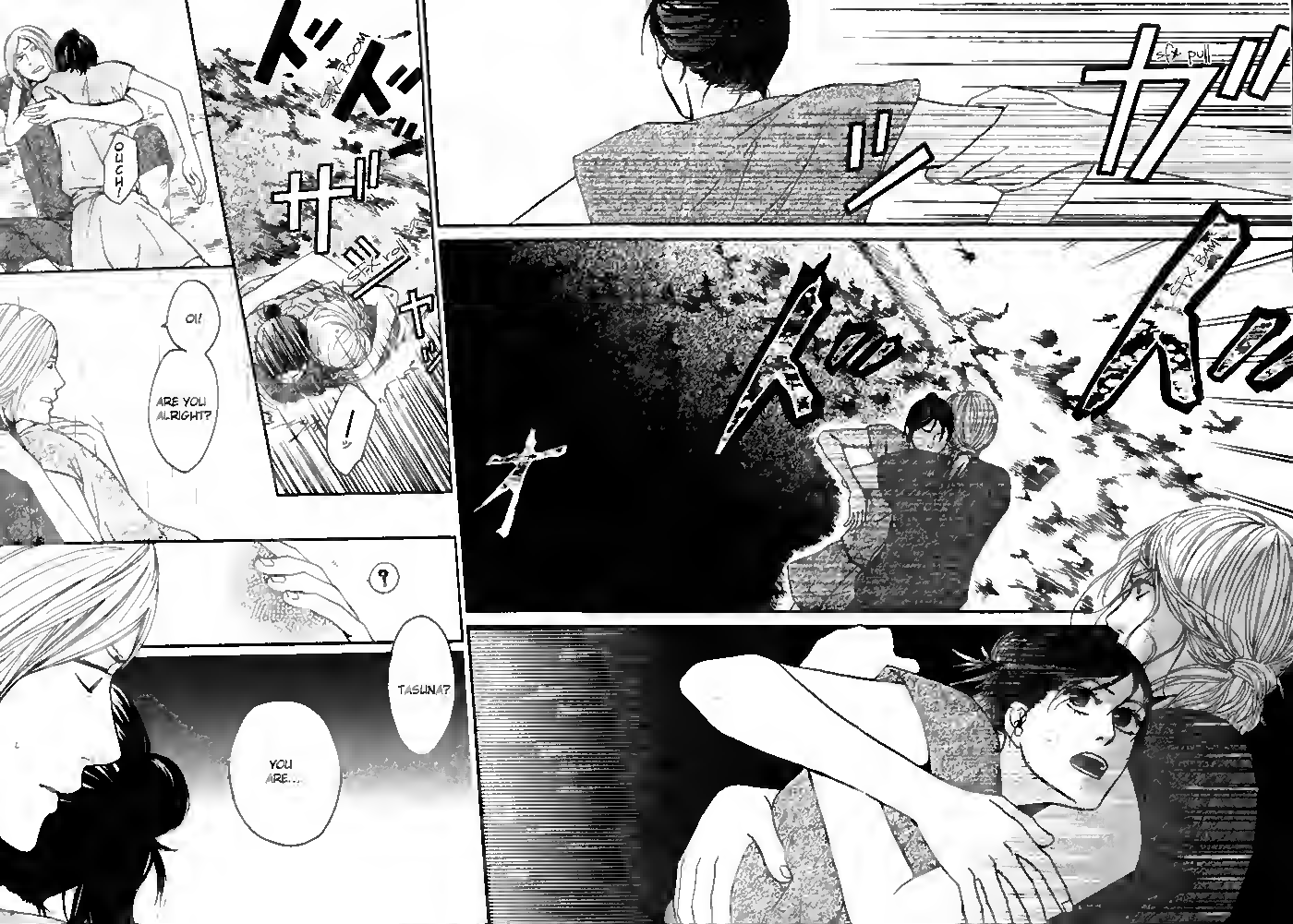
Baekje
Wa
INDEED WITH YOUR SKILLS,
YOU MIGHT MAKE IT THERE ONE DAY!
WE WILL GO TO BAEKJE TOGETHER!
Then, one day. .
From that day on,

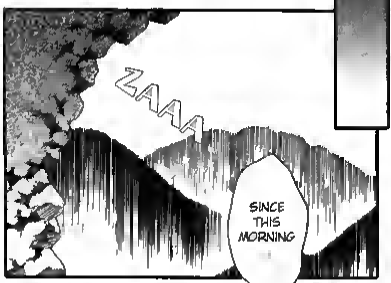
DOWNPOUR
I work hard day and night!
I keep engraving designs after designs!
If I don't keep pushing myself,
I would let the opportunity slip through my fingers!
The entrance exam

M-MASTER!
YOU GONNA MAKE YOURSELF SICK WORKING SO HARD!
SORRY!
THE LONG SPELL OF RAIN IS MAKING THE EARTH SHIFT
HELP ME MOVE EVERYTHING INSIDE THE CAVE
SURE!
ZAAAAA
TASUNA!
TASUNA!
OI!
splish
splash
gasp

KLUNK
WHOA!
WATCH YOUR STEP!
YESSIR
WOBBL
GOT IT!
LET'S MOVE THE TOOLS FIRST.
THE PITCH BOWL CAN WAIT.

RUMBLE...
TASUNA!!


ouch!
oi!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
?
TASUNA?
YOU ARE...


ZAAAA

SINCE THIS MORNING
I'VE BEEN FEELING SLUGGISH

I SHOULD'VE NOTICED SOMETHING IS WRONG
NO,
SORRY..
ANYTHING YOU WANT TO EAT?

slump
RUNNING A FEVER?

O!

WATER.
ARE YOU THIRSTY?
HERE!
CAN YOU SWALLOW?
IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE WARM.
JUST BEAR WITH IT.
caress
Ah!
...His hand
feels so good. . so cool...

GULP
No way...
anyone
I don't remember
DO YOU WANT MORE?
YOU HATE IT SO MUCH THAT YOU HAVE TO CRY ABOUT IT?
being this kind to me...
THAT'S NOT IT...
even
—O!
NO...

Such tenderness
it fills the crevices in my heart
and touches my innermost place!
MORE...
It stuns me (sweet) breathless!
WAIT!
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE WATER...
TASU...

TASUNA
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP...
DON'T DO THIS!
MORE...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD MYSELF IN CHECK...
What...?
I can't hear you!
I m...
drowsy
so sleepy...

Fanfasy Shrine

scanlafions

Efernal Flower

Chapfer 3

Scanning: easykif

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Proofreading: SD

Edifing: Bohi

Qualify Checking: lori, easykif

ETERNAL FLOWER
THREE

KLUNK
KLUNK
KLUNK
KLUNK
KLUNK
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE!

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
NO.
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE
A LITTLE...
JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT,
I'LL GET IT.
KLUNK
DID I SLEEP?
HOW LONG...
ABOUT TWO OR THREE DAYS
REALLY!?

I HAVE A LOT TO DO...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT...
KLUNK
SORRY, I SPILLED YOUR RICE
IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
MASTER !?

I CAN DO IT!
NO, LET ME DO IT!
...YOU'RE REALLY STUBBORN
YOU JUST WOKE UP. YOU SHOULD REST.
LOOK WHO'S BEING THE STUBBORN ONE?
...MASTER...
YOUR WRIST...
IS IT HURTING YOU AGAIN?
My master

I don't know how bad his injury
I'M FINE
used to be the best goldsmith in the Capital.
but I notice whenever it's cold or wet, his appetite decreases.
Those days
must be when his wrist is hurting him!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF!
YOU NAG
MAD
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, MASTER!
FU

IT'S NOT FUNNY!
AH, NO.
ARGH
Sorry.
...HERE TASUNA.
(HEW
(HEW
(HOM)

SPOON-FED

I'M JUST HAPPY
BECAUSE NO ONE HAS EVER FUSSED OVER ME SO MUCH

Sometimes
when Master reveals his tender side,
I feel as if I've glimpsed the soft light reflected from the snow field.
It's so soothing
...I see
Hmm?
And my heart would tighten as if squeezed!

THUMP
THUMP
I'M
THOMP
BA-THUMP
IN LOVE
WITH MASTER!
SPLASH
THUMP
ZRRRRR
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
...What do I do?
This is the first time I've ever been in love!

Should I just attack him
but what if he kicks me out?
WHOA
GASP
TASUNA!
I don't know how to express my feelings
ZAKAKA
If I were a woman it wouldn't be a problem!

SPLISH
SPLASH
I SLEPT FOR DAYS SO I WANTED A BATH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING STANDING THERE?
BUSTLE
SPLASH
IT'S ALRIGHT
YOU'LL GET COLD AGAIN! HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THE WATER.
MASTER.
TOSS
HERE.
WHOA!
I HAVEN'T DRIED MYSELF—
JUST PUT IT ON!

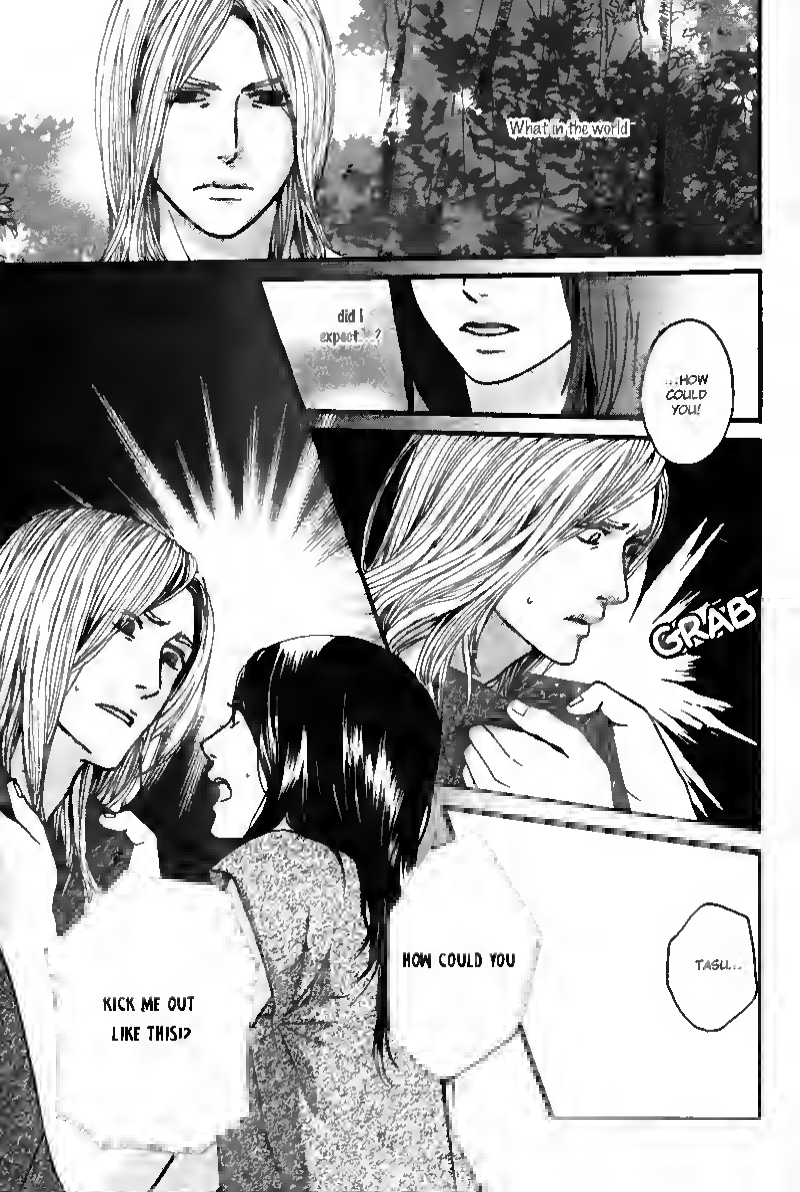
Rummage
Rummage
TASLIMA.
YES?
IF YOU DON'T WANNA SEE, DON'T LOOK...
YOU!
YOU SHOULDN'T EXPOSE YOUR BODY LIKE THAT.
HERE!
MASTER...
IT'S...
YES!
I THOUGHT THE EARTH HAD BURIED IT!
THIS IS YOUR ENGRAVING BEFORE THE LANDSLIDE NO?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
.....
TASUNA
YES?
I THINK

I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO TEACH YOU.
EH?
The Capital...?
IT'S TIME YOU SHOULD GO TO THE CAPITAL.
YOU NEED TO GO TO A PLACE WITH PROPER EQUIPMENT.
ER...
I'LL RECOMMEND YOU TO MY PREVIOUS WORKSHOP

BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MASTER?
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE CAPITAL
...IS IT
BECAUSE OF YOUR WRIST?
...NO
MY WRIST WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE
I'LL BE FINE YOU SHOULD GO
THEN WHY DID YOU...
...BUT

...THEN
IT'S FATE
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU!
I'M AFRAID
THAT I WON'T GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
What!?
Why?
...cold...


What in the world
did I expect...?
...HOW COULD YOU!
GRAB
TAGU...
HOW COULD YOU
KICK ME OUT LIKE THIS!?

YOU'RE TRYING TO GET RID OF ME!
OI!
PLEASE TELL ME SO I CAN FIX IT!
CALM DOWN...
WOBBLE
TASUNA!
WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR SO LONG...
TELL ME WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

WHOA!
WAH!
THUD
OUCH...
OI,
YOU ALRIGHT?
.....
I DON'T WANT TO
POUT
GO TO THE CAPITAL BY MYSELF!

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME?
...I DON'T WANT TO
BECOME ATTACHED TO ANYONE...
THAT'S WHY I ABANDONED EVERYTHING AND LEFT THE CAPITAL...
THEN,
WHY DID YOU PICK ME UP FROM THE ROAD?

WHY ARE YOU SO NICE TO ME?
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'M NOT A NICE PERSON
AND I'VE NEVER BEEN NICE TO ANYONE
LIAR...
...IT'S THE TRUTH.
WHEN I WAS IN THE CAPITAL,

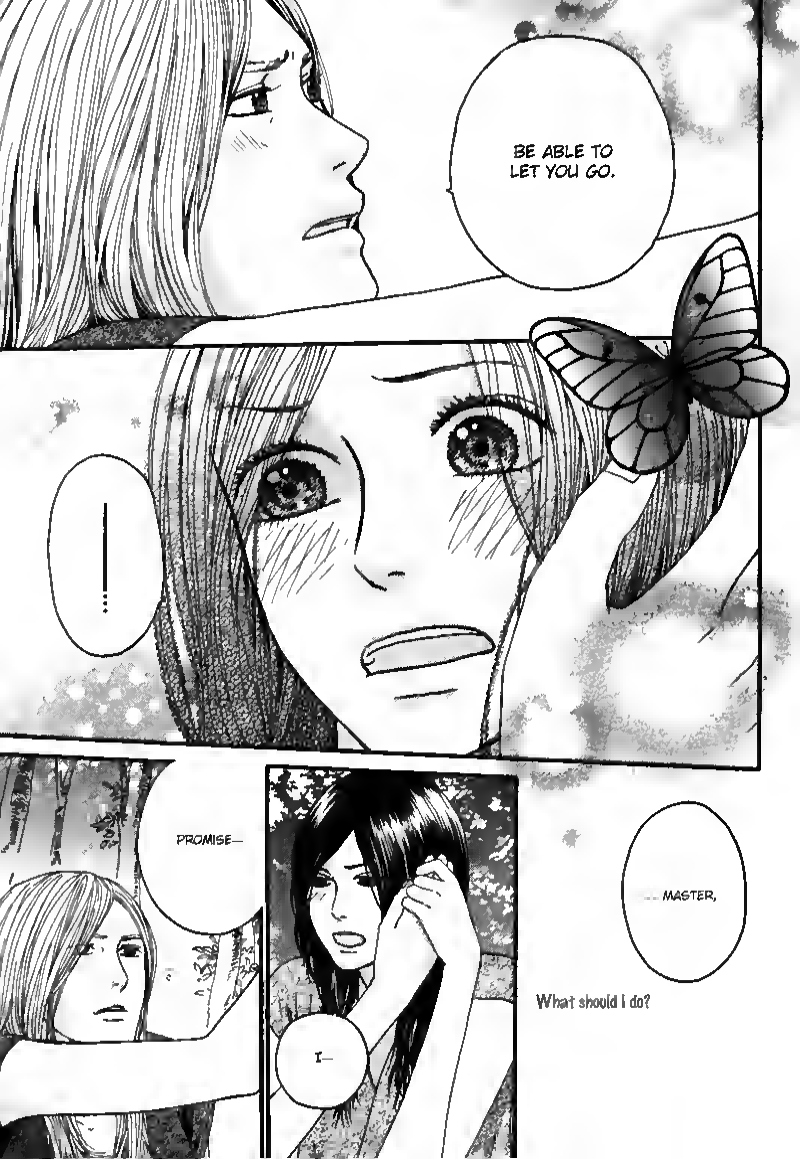
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
I KNOW... IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE...
I WAS ARROGANT
BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS SINGING MY PRAISES
WOMEN, MONEY, FAME, I THOUGHT I HAD IT ALL!
BUT AFTER I INJURED MY RIGHT HAND
I FINALLY REALIZED THE PAIN I HAD CAUSED OTHERS
...SINCE THEN,
I'M AFRAID TO GET CLOSE TO ANYONE.

IF I GET CLOSE TO A PERSON AND HURT THAT PERSON.
IT WOULD BECOME A BURDEN ON MY CONSCIENCE
I... DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
THAT'S NOT A HAPPY LIFE!
...
INDEED. IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF IN ISOLATION, YOU WON'T HURT ANYONE,
I DIDN'T GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT ANY SCARS!
BUT YOU WOULD BE LONESOME!
BUT IF I KEEP HANGING ON TO MY WOUNDS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HEAL AND GET ON WITH MY LIFE!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, JUST SAY SO.
I PROMISE I WON'T GET HURT BY YOU, MASTER!
JUST LET ME STAY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
SO PLEASE
LET'S GO TO THE CAPITAL TOGETHER?
TASLINA...

I'M SORRY.
...ALRIGHT.
...DO YOU
LOVE ME?
THEN, JUST ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION.

THEREFORE, IF YOU KEEP STAYING HERE LIKE THIS WITH ME,
I'LL NEVER
.....
YES.
YOU DO?
BEACH


BE ABLE TO LET YOU GO.
...!
PROMISE—
I—
...MASTER,
What should I do?

I'LL COME BACK
FOR YOU!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO BAEKJE WITH ME!
I love him so much
UNTIL THEN PLEASE DON'T EVER FORGET ME, MASTER!
JUST LIKE I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
SO,
This feeling
WOULD YOU HOLD ME?

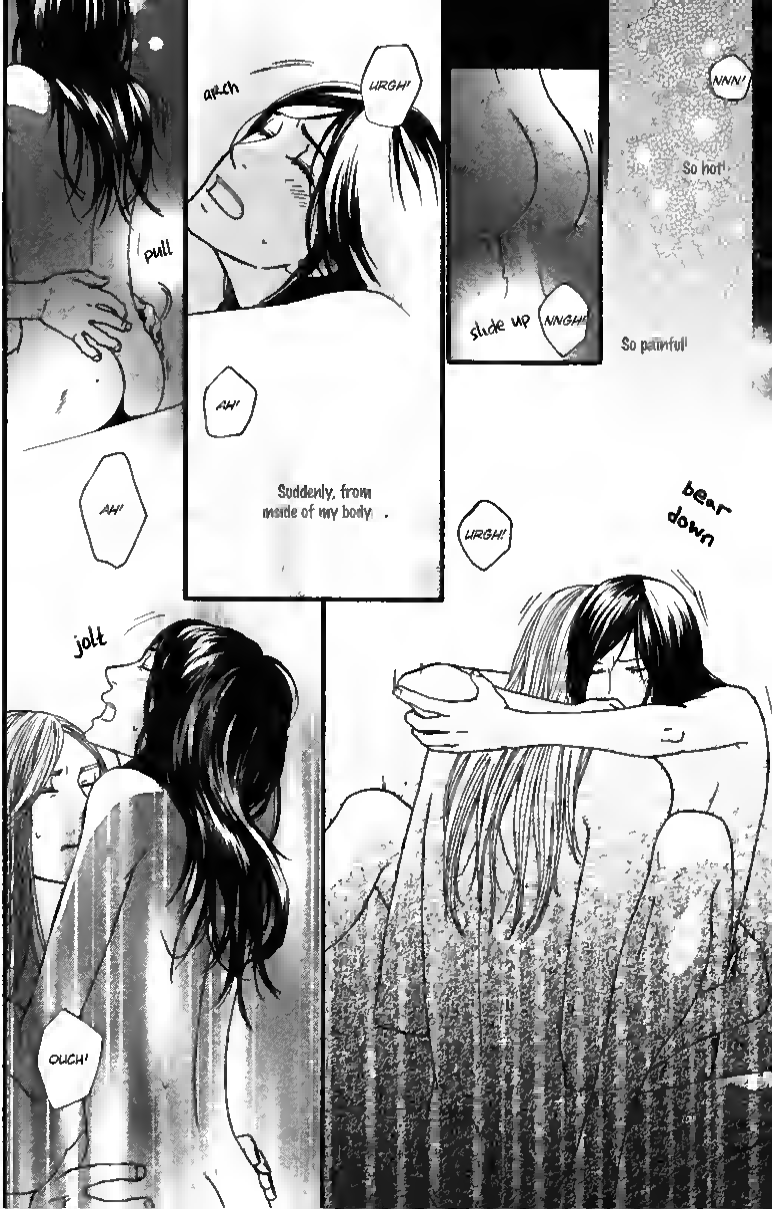
NEVER!
...THEN IT'S A PROMISE!
So I can only let my instincts take over my body!
To touch
To be touched
is so ferocious that it threatens to take away all reason!
...WON'T YOU REGRET THIS?

UNH!
our love
AH!
explodes!
URGH!
STROKE
STROKE
Jolt
AH!
SMASH

AH!
jolt
AH!
NNNGH
splurt
smear
HAA
squish
slick
...TASUNA.

HOIST
WHOA!
WOULD YOU RIDE ME?
AH..
So tight
NNN!
So
HUFF
SQUIRM
YOU ALRIGHT?

BEAR DOWN
NNN
RIDE
H..!
HA
IT...
HURTS!
NNN!
HA
Oh..


pull
arch
URGH!
AH!
Suddenly, from inside of my body
slide up
NNGH!
So painful
NNN!
So hot
AH!
URGH!
bear down
jolt
OUCH!

CLENCH
URGH!
tighter
AAAAH
URGH!
SPLURT
BLISS SO INTENSE IT JUST THROUGH
TASUNA
HAA
HA
HAA
YOU ALRIGHT?
UMM
What do I do?

When Master touches me,
It's so tender...
with so much love...
and unbelievable bliss!
HUG
Oi?
....JUST...
LET ME HOLD YOU LIKE THIS...
This is so different from what I felt before.

TO BAEKJE
TO BAEKJE
I don't want to just receive.
Therefore,
I want to give as much as I get!
from him!
WE MUST GO TO BAEKJE!

TAKE THIS
DON'T LOOK SO SAD.
THAT'S BECAUSE...
I'LL MISS YOU JUST AS MUCH.
TASLINA.
YES?
THIS IS...
WHEN YOU GO THERE

MASTER
SHOW THEM THIS AS PROOF THAT YOU'RE MY STUDENT
I should've known
that once we merged our bodies together, it would be even more painful to be separated
However, I wouldn't have it any other way!
PINCH

GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!
But now
I have a home to return to!
I'LL BE WAITING RIGHT HERE
It somehow
UNTIL YOU RETURN!
eases the pain
of separation

うつしみの花
ETERNAL FLOWER

うつしみの花

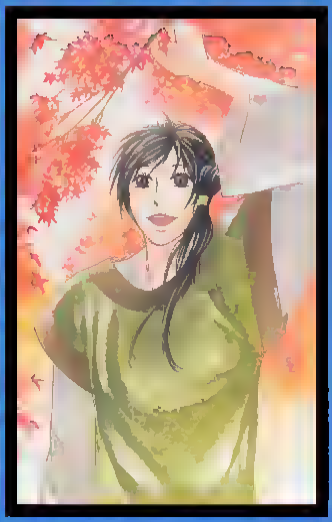
Fantasy Shrine presents

Utsushimi no Hana
(Eternal Flower)

by

Takahisa Tooru

Ch 4-5



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Translator: Lori
Proofreader: SD
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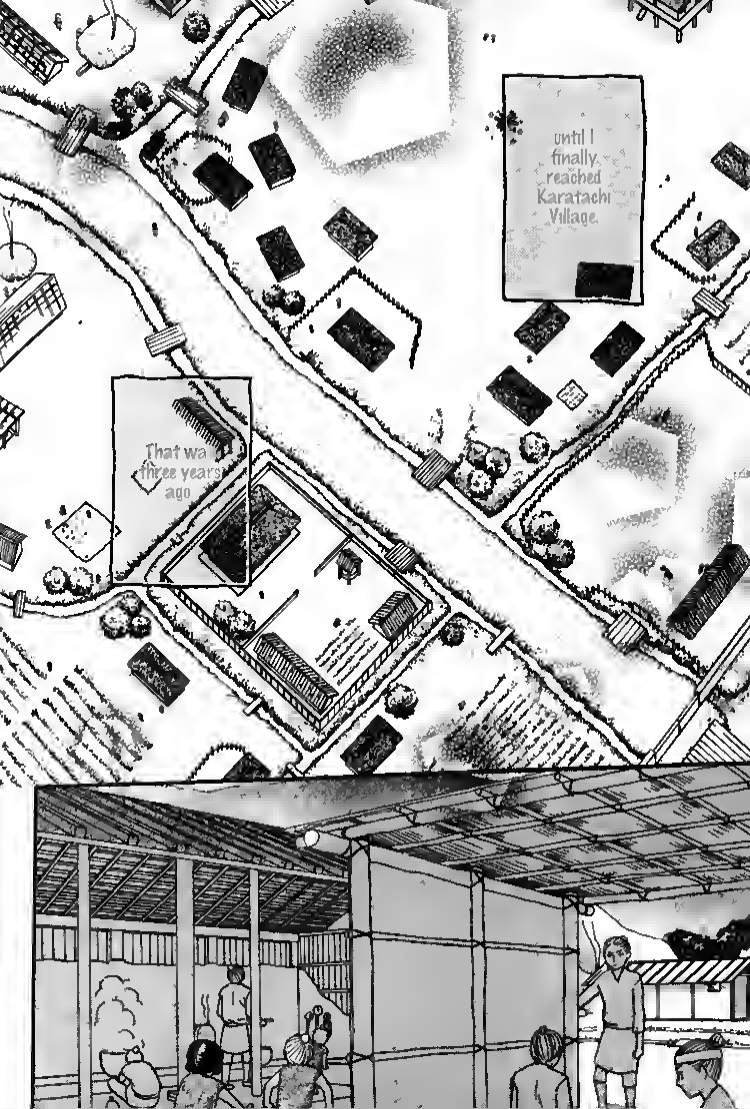
QCheck: Easykit & Lori

ETERNAL FLOWER - FOUR

ETERNAL
FLOWER

IF YOU KEEP HEADING SOUTH OF HERE, YOU'LL REACH A PLACE CALLED KATSURAGI
AS YOU NEAR THE CAPITAL,
YES, I USED TO LIVE THERE WHEN I WAS IN THE CAPITAL.
AND SO DID YOUR LATE FATHER.
THERE'S A KOREAN COMMUNITY, KARATACHI VILLAGE, NEAR THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE ROYAL ESTATE.
THAT'S WHERE YOU SHOULD GO.
KARATACHI VILLAGE?
So, I followed my Master's direction
and hiked over countless mountains


That was three years ago
until I finally reached Karatachi Village.

reach~~
grab
OH, NO!
THAT'S MERCURY, VERY POISONOUS!
TASUNA!
YOU CAN'T TOUCH THAT!
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
NOW, YOU GOOD CHILDREN GO PLAY ELSEWHERE
DASH
DASH
IT'S FOR GILDING
OTHERWISE, WHEN BOSS COMES BACK, HE'LL BE MAD
Alright
BOSS!
OH?
GAPP

In the last year, I've been entrusted with many assignments
I'm currently one of the apprentices in the engraving workshop
Is a blacksmith community in the royal estate Katsuragi
Karatachi Village
TELL THEM THAT WE JUST GOT A SHIPMENT OF EXCELLENT IRON FROM MIMASAKA
SURE!
BOSS,
MAY I GO TO JIYAKUSHI'S PLACE?
OI, TASUNA!
TO THE SWORD SMITH'S WORK-SHOP?
and worked with blacksmiths of the
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
JIYAKUSHI,

GOOD TIMING!
GOT A MOMENT? I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE CEREMONIAL KNIFE FOR THE SHRINE.
YO!
HERE!
Pre sents
WOW!
A PROTO-TYPE?
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
irk
KLONK
KLONK
KLONK
KLONK
KLONK
HUH?
OH, NOTHING!
WHAT ELSE?
PISTON
NO WONDER YOU'RE THE NUMBER ONE, UP-AND-COMING SWORD SMITH!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

YOU'RE ALREADY ENTRUSTED WITH THE ENGRAVING FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL AT A TENDER AGE!
HOW HUMBLE AND KIND OF HIM TO PRAISE YOU, JIYAKUSHI?
POUT
JIU!
Oi... YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
Your workmanship is even better!
BOSS IS GONNA SCOLD YOU!
Oh, no! He won't, since I'm the best!
syhana
WHAT?!
THAT'S THE FIRST THING OFF YOUR MOUTH!?
NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU THINK YOU ARE, IF YOU DON'T WORK, YOU'RE USELESS!
DON'T LET HIM CORRUPT YOU, TASUNA!
Not at all! I JUST IGNORE HIM!
You guys are so mean ~~
TASUNA...
HUH—

GO GET READY TO ENTER THE PALACE!
THE PALACE?
YES, WE WILL BE RECEIVED BY PRINCESS HASHIHITO! EVEN THOUGH THIS ISN'T A FORMAL VISIT,
WAKE-SAMA! THERE YOU ARE!
TASU-NA!
stomp stomp stomp
WOW! OUR VILLAGE CHIEF IS HERE IN PERSON!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
EH?
Yikes!
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
AND JIU, WHY ARE YOU SLACKING OFF OVER HERE?
YES, TASUNA, JIYAKUSHI.

Normally people like us would never have the chance to meet them
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHAT DOES SHE WANT WITH US...? WHY?
THE OTHER DAY, WE PRESENTED YOUR PIECES TO HER AND SHE WAS DELIGHTED
I BELIEVE SHE WANTS TO GIVE YOU RECOGNITION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
UMM!
Princess Hashihito is the daughter of the current empress...
OH?
HURRY AND GET YOURSELF READY!
EH...!
YOU'LL WAIT WITH THE HORSE WHILE WE GO INSIDE THE PALACE!
JIU, YOU TOO!
.....

ISN'T IT GREAT?
JIYA-KUSHI
TO VISIT THE CAPITAL
...UMM!
I've only seen the Asuka Palace from afar!
If I may say so myself, I think I'm starting to build my own reputation.
However, as I approach the Capital,

that overwhelms all visitors with its splendid glory!
Soon we arrived at the Mecca of arts and crafts, the Asuka Capital!
That seems like another lifetime
as I recall
my heart is filled with anxiety and fear
Nestled in a basin
Am I gradually reaching that dream?
I PROMISE
the promise I made on that day
WE WILL GO TO BAEKJE TOGETHER, MASTER!

HEY, I KNOW YOU'RE THRILLED TO BE HERE, BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO LOOK AROUND!
RUSTLE...
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH OF YOU, CRAFT MASTERS OF KARATACHI!

EVERYONE,
YOU MAY LOOK UP.
YES!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I'M THE VILLAGE CHIEF OF KARATACHI VILLAGE, WAKE, AT YOUR SERVICE!
RIGHT BEHIND ME,
WE HAVE THE GOLDSMITH TASUNA TO MY RIGHT
AND THE SWORD SMITH JIYAKUSHI TO MY LEFT

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!
TASUNA, JIYAKUSHI,
THE REASON I CALLED YOU HERE TODAY
YOUR OFFERING PIECES TO THE PALACE ARE AMAZING!
THE EMPRESS IS DEEPLY IMPRESSED!
KALANK
IS TO—
KALANK
OH, THAT IS OUR GREATEST HONOR, YOUR HIGHNESS!
KALANK
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS!
KALANK

PLEASE DO NOT RIDE THE HORSE INTO THE PALACE
...
gallop
ROYAL BROTHER KATSU-RAGI ...!
WHY DID YOU BARGE IN LIKE THIS?
DISMOUNT
Katsuragi ...
That's ...

ARE YOU TRYING TO EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF OUR GUESTS?
SUCH MANNER ISN'T BEFITTING FOR A...
HEALTH AND LONGEVITY TO YOU, HASHIHITO!
PRINCE KATSURAGI
!?
DON'T SAY THAT!
YOU LOOK WELL, WAKE!
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR KINDNESS
DROP THAT FORMALITY!
YES!

SO, WAKE,
THOSE BEHIND YOU, ARE THEY THE CRAFT MASTERS WHO MADE THE KNIFE?
YES,
THEY ARE JIYAKUSHI AND TASUNA
halt
SQUAT
ARE YOU TASUNA?
YES.
LIFT UP YOUR FACE.

NO WONDER!
I COULD SEE WHY YOU REFUSED TO LET ME MEET HIM!
TILT
Y-YOUR ROYAL HIGH-NESS?
WAKE,
GASP

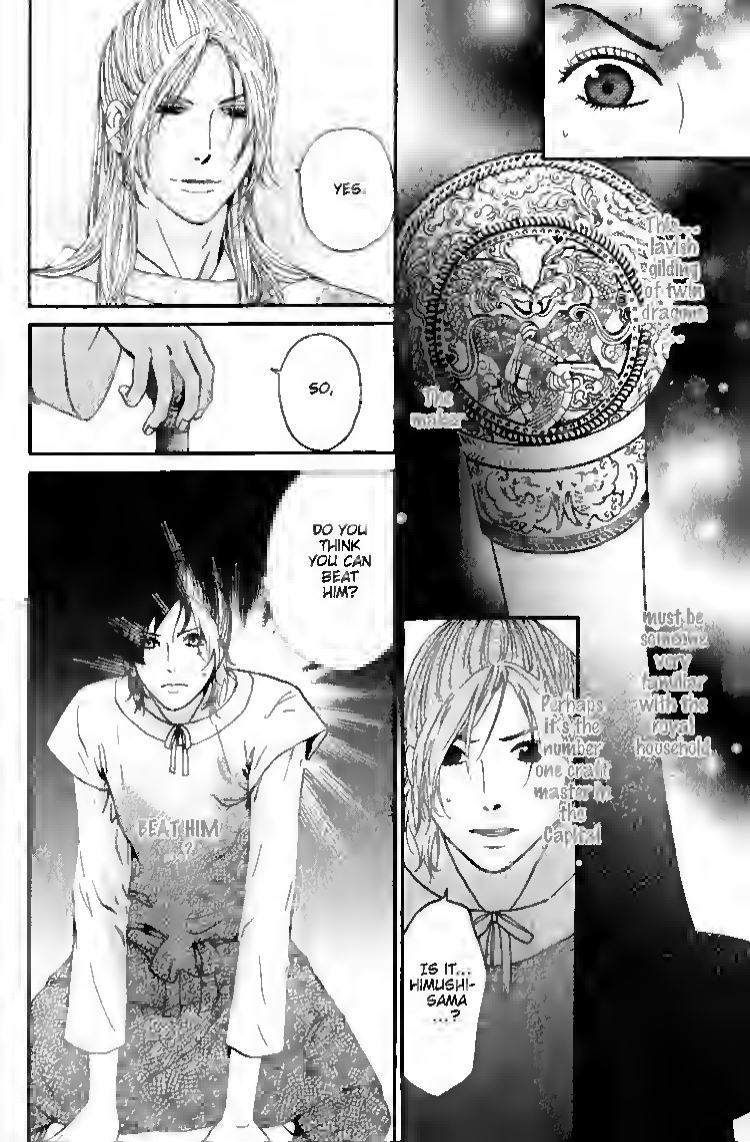
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS!?
!
CLAMOR

shove
Thud
TA—
TASUNA!
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, PLEASE FORGIVE US!
Y—
GULP
.....
bow
WE ARE ONLY YOUR LOWLY WORKERS

HOWEVER, THOSE BLACKSMITHS ARE VERY DIGNIFIED PEOPLE.
AND
WE DON'T WANT THEM TO BITE OFF THEIR TONGUES AND KILL THEMSELVES.
YOU MAY HOLD ANYONE TO YOUR LIKING.
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
WHAT?
I WAS MERELY PLAYING.
BUT AREN'T YOU A PRIDEFUL ONE!
FLINCH

gasp
stab
swoosh

YOU THINK I'LL KILL YOU?
INDEED, THAT WOULD BE YOUR PROPER PUNISHMENT.
ROYAL BROTHER!
TELL ME,
WHO DO YOU THINK MADE THIS ENGRAVING?
STAY BACK, HASHIHITO!


YES.
SO,
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT HIM?
BEAT HIM...?
The lavish gilding of twin dragons
The workmanship
must be someone very familiar with the royal household
Perhaps it's the number one craft master in the Capital
IS IT... HIMUSHI-SAMA...?

SAY YES!
TASUNA,
ME..?
whisper
Yakushi?
gasp
WELL,
ANSWER MY QUESTION!
Y... YES
VERY WELL!
I'LL SET UP A CONTEST BETWEEN YOU AND HIMUSHI.

TWO MONTHS FROM TODAY,
...EH?
ER..
THERE WILL BE A BUDDHIST MASS IN THE BAEKJE GRAND TEMPLE.
IT'S AN OCCASION TO PUT YOUR SKILLS TO TEST.
THE EMPRESS
AND ALL HER MINISTERS WILL BE ATTENDING.
Pull
THE EMPRESS ...!??
HOWEVER,
CAN YOU MAKE A SHRINE CABINET BY THEN?

SUCH
CHILL OF EYES
shudder
!
IF YOU LOSE... YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE!
I'LL SEND A MESSENGER WITH THE COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE EVENT
KAMAKO!
TAP
LET'S GO!
YES
WHY?

YES...
.....
WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU UNLESS HE BELIEVES YOU CAN WIN!
HIS ROYAL HIGH-NESS
TASUNA!
THANK YOU
I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS!

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
JIY/KUSH!
...
...IT'S REALLY YOUR BAD LUCK TO GET DRAGGED INTO THIS!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RIGHT NOW,
THE IMPERIAL COURT
IS SPLIT INTO TWO SIDES;
PRINCE KATSURAGI AND HIS HALF BROTHER, PRINCE FURUHITO, WHO HAS THE BACKING OF THE NOBLE CLAN SOGA, ARE COMPETING FOR THE THRONE.
WE ARE PRINCE KATSURAGI'S EXCLUSIVE WORKERS.

SINCE THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER IS THE HEAD OF THE SOGA CLAN,
THEY CAN EMPLOY NUMEROUS WORKERS
AND HIMUSHI IS ONE OF THEM
OH...
THEN,
SO, THIS IS PART OF THEIR POLITICAL WAR!
WHY DID YOU TELL ME TO SAY "YES"?
...WELL,
JIYAKUSHI!
YOU TALK TOO MUCH!

JIYAKUSHI ...
I BELIEVE YOU CAN BEAT HIMUSHI!
I THINK
THE PRINCE MEANT TO KILL YOU RIGHT THERE
AND
CAN'T YOU?

I'm a nameless engraver!
THINK ABOUT IT,
BUT
I'M MERELY AN APPRENTICE!
SINCE HE WOULD BE KILLED IF HE RUNS AWAY,
HE MIGHT AS WELL FACE THE BATTLE HEAD ON!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T EGG HIM ON!
JIYAKUSHI!
-Ah!
IF YOU WIN, THIS MIGHT BE YOUR CHANCE TO GO TO BAEKJE!

THIS DOOR IS TO BAEKJE
MIGHT OPEN FOR ME!
THIS IS
TASUNA ?
MY OPPORTUNITY!
I'll win
and my skills are recognized,

ETERNAL
FLOWER

ETERNAL FLOWER FIVE

the prince dispatched his messengers to our village
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
I'LL SETUP A CONTEST BETWEEN YOU AND HIMUSHI
IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE...
Days later,

KOMUNARI AND COMPANY,
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
THE MESSENGER IS HERE?
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
to give us the agenda of the Buddhist mass in the Baekje Grand Temple.
TASUNA!
YES,
THE ELDERS ARE RECEIVING HIM NOW!
OH!
Thanks!
HEY! WAIT ...
CREAK

I TRUST YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD OF THE REQUEST FROM HIS HIGHNESS?
CERTAINLY.
THE SHRINE CABINET WILL BE AN OFFERING TO THE BAEKJE GRAND TEMPLE IN TWO MONTHS.
THEREFORE, THE CONTEST WILL START 10 DAYS FROM TODAY
AND LAST UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE THE BUDDHIST MASS AT THE 8TH HOUR*. THERE WILL BE GUARDS OBSERVING THE ENTIRE PROCESS TO ENSURE THE RULES ARE FOLLOWED.
THE ENGRAVING OF THE CABINET MUST BE DONE BY TASUNA ALONE.
HE MAY HAVE TWO ASSISTANTS.
HE CAN'T DEFALILT FROM THE CONTEST!
IF HE TRIES TO RUN,

HIS HIGHNESS WANTS THIS OLD HEAD OF MINE?
REGRETTABLY
THEREFORE, PLEASE TAKE THIS CONTEST MOST SERIOUSLY!
OH GOD!
THEN YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.
---WHAT?

CLENCH
. including the whole village..
With [illegible] at stake
EVEN KOMUNARI-SAMA!?
THERE'S NOT MUCH CHOICE! I MUST WIN...!

WHAT?
PLEASE!
YOU ALSO WANT WINGS OF THE JEWEL BEETLES*?
AS MANY AS YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON!
*FOR THE IRIDESCENT WINGS
Since then, I've been busy everyday like a headless chicken!
YOU WANT ME TO CATCH BUGS?
Man! This is a pain!
SORRY!
SO,
DO YOU HAVE A DESIGN YET?
COME. I'LL SHOW YOU.
YES.
BOARDS
CLAY
GOLD
SILVER
PAINT
VARNISH
Thud
Thud

RUSTLE
...OI,
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
.....
IS WHAT I HAVE SO FAR
SWOOSH
THIS

THAT CAN'T BE THE ROOF CHARMS*!?
YES, IT IS!
LOTUS IS THE MOST COMMON ROOF CHARMS
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS FIGURE BEFORE!
*CHINESE IMPERIAL ROOF DECORATION NEAR THE EDGE OF THE ROOF
THIS IS TO SCARE THE DEMONS AWAY, ISN'T IT?
RIGHT!
ACTUALLY, I'VE HEARD OF THIS FIGURE FROM KOMUNARI-SAMA! IT'S FROM CHINA!
RIGHT!
IT'S PERFECT FOR PROTECTING THE BUDDHA STATUE INSIDE THE CABINET!
BUT, WHAT IS IT, ANYWAY? IS THAT A REAL ANIMAL? OR A MYTHICAL ONE?

*A MOTIF COMMONLY FOUND ON RITUAL BRONZE VESSELS FROM THE SHANG AND ZHOU DYNASTY OF CHINA
THIS IS TAOTIE*
LEGEND HAS IT THAT IT'S VICIOUS AND GLUTTONOUS
...HOW—
MY MASTER TOLD ME.
HOW DID YOU KNOW STUFF LIKE THAT?
HE TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE MAINLAND
...THEN, WHO'S YOUR MASTER?
HE'S NO COMMONER!
YOU'VE NEVER MENTIONED IT!
AZERI-SAMA
WHÄÄAT—!!?
EH?

WHAT?
YOU MEAN THAT AZERI-SAMA ...?
HE'S FAMOUS FOR HIS ECCENTRICITY AND HE'S DOWN RIGHT SCARY!
Eh?
HOW DID YOU BECOME HIS APPREN-TICE?
WHERE'S HE NOW?
JIJI!
I I CAN'T TELL YOU..
Shudder
WHY can't you tell me?
DON'T MIND HIM, TASUNA!
WHEN AZERI-SAMA SUDDENLY LEFT THE VILLAGE, WE WERE JUST KIDS!
BUT WE STILL REMEMBER HIM AS THE MOST FEARED AND RESPECTED CRAFT MASTER!
.. OH?
Hmm
IS HE DOING ALRIGHT?
YES.
NO WONDER YOU'RE SO GOOD!

AZERI-SAMA ASIDE,
LET'S CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND.
YOU HAVEN'T MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF YET SO NOBODY KNOWS WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOU
THEREFORE,
MY ONLY WINNING CHANCE IS
TO COME UP WITH A UNIQUE DESIGN THAT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE!
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE OUTLANDISH.
...

Master has taught me the importance of reinventing oneself!
Only by constant improvements do we avoid becoming obsolete!
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M NOT BERATING TRADITION.
BUT I BELIEVE IN IMPROVING IT!
...SO, IT'S A GAMBLE, THEN.
IF THAT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU?
IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH HIMUSHI-SAMA
WHO IS FAMOUS FOR HIS TRADITIONAL DESIGNS AND INTRICATE DETAILS,
I NEED INNOVATION TO COMPENSATE FOR MY INEXPERIENCE
Because

blaze
blaze
SAY—
I HAVE MY LIMITS YOU KNOW!
BLAZE
HEY!?
UMM...
not listening
UMM.
I DO NEED TO SLEEP SOMETIMES
JUST TAKE IT OFF!
GIVE IT A REST!
WHEN HE'S CONCENTRATING, HE CAN'T HEAR YOU!
That's the way he is
SO DAMN HOT~~ HOT~~
Urgh Urgh
...THANK YOU!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, TOO!
Rustle Rustle
WE BELIEVE IN YOU!
...YES.
IF YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND,
WE'LL FOLLOW YOU.

I'M REALLY AMAZED BY THE FELLA IN THE GOLDSMITH WORKSHOP
JIU?
HOW CAN THEY CONCENTRATE SEEING THAT?
Seriously...
TASUNA!
HUH?

WHY DON'T YOU GO TAKE A BREAK OUTSIDE?
Get some fresh air
AH... ALRIGHT.
Firewood firewood
Huh?
The light is still on
I'LL GET MORE FIREWOOD WHILE I'M AT IT
Oh,
AND SOME FOOD, TOO—
I'm starved
SURE, SURE
Who's still working at this late hour...?
Who could it be?

SAY,
It's the elders in the village
KOMUNARI,
Komunari-sama and even Granny!
THIS IS LIKE THE HISTORY WITH AZERI REPEATING ITSELF, ISN'T IT?
Oh!
MY MASTER ..?
ドクン

NOT QUITE!
HIMUSHI IS NO LONGER IN OUR VILLAGE
What?
Himushi...?
I thought he has always been with the Soga clan...?
HE DOESN'T HOLD GRUDGES.
AND TASUN IS A SWEET CHILD JUST LIKE HIS LATE FATHER!
HOWEVER,
THIS IS AS IF
HE WAS SENT HERE TO AVENGE AZERI
WHAT...?
...WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT.

Does it
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT HE ISN'T HERE TO AVENGE AZERI.
EXCUSE ME!
CAN YOU TELL ME
WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT!?

YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
GRANNY.
CAN YOU PLEASE REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
PLEASE TELL ME THE TRUTH!
Oh crap...
WELL,
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
AH!
WHY DON'T YOU CALM DOWN FIRST?
KOMUNARI-SAMA!

WHAT HAS AZERI TOLD YOU?
... NOTHING!
I'M SERI-OUS ..
SO,
EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO KEEP A SECRET OR TWO...
IF AZERI WANTED YOU TO KNOW,
THEN, WE CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING EITHER
WHAT ...
WHY NOT?
HE WOULD'VE TOLD YOU ALREADY!
BUT... I'M HIS..

IT ISN'T NECESSARILY A GOOD THING FOR AN APPRENTICE TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIS MASTER!
.....
RIGHT NOW IS THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE!
YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND!
...WHEN MY MASTER STILL LIVED HERE...
Here.
have a seat.
plop
KOMUNARI-SAMA,
CAN I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

Perhaps all those years in the village,
I've never asked anyone about Master.
Yet,
I simply can't believe his words!
WELL...
WHEN I WAS IN THE CAPITAL,
I WAS ARROGANT!
That's what Master told me.

VERY STRICT WITH EVERYONE AND EVEN MORE SO TO HIMSELF
HE WAS

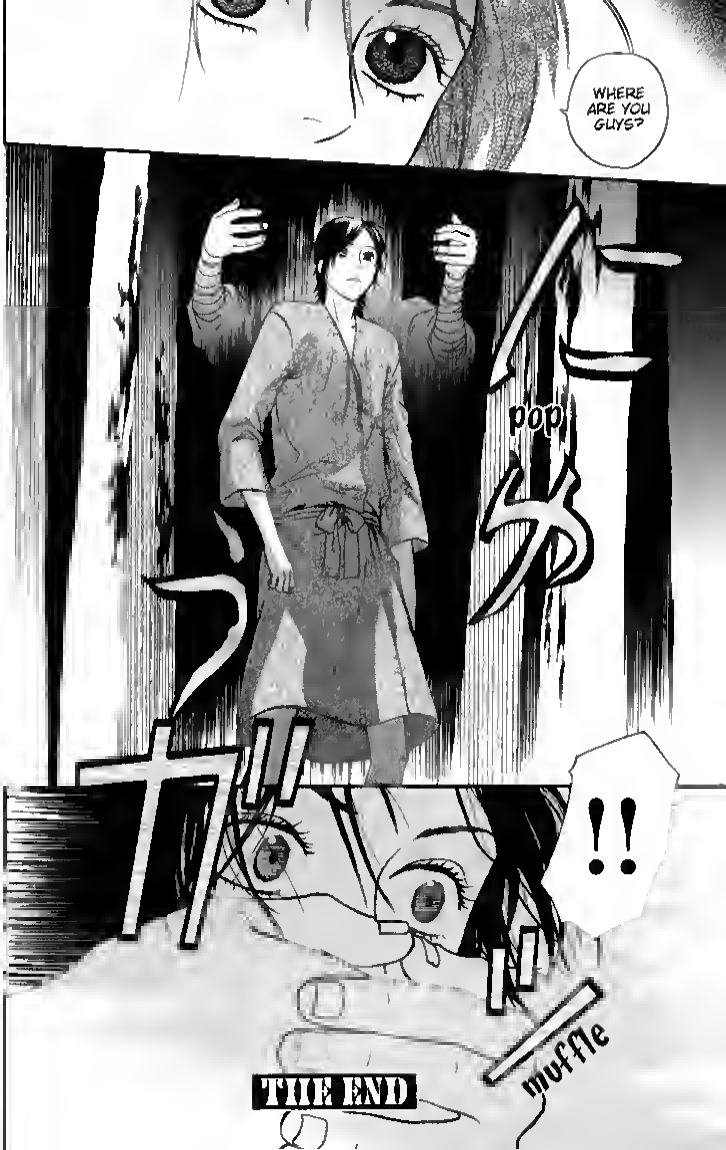
HOWEVER, HE NEVER SAID THINGS HE DIDN'T MEAN!
AND WAS HARD TO GET ALONG WITH.
HE ALWAYS SPOKE HIS MIND
IS THAT ALL...?
But
And where does
Ummushi-sama come into all this?
they mentioned avenge
What could it be?
If that's the case
where did the feud come from...?

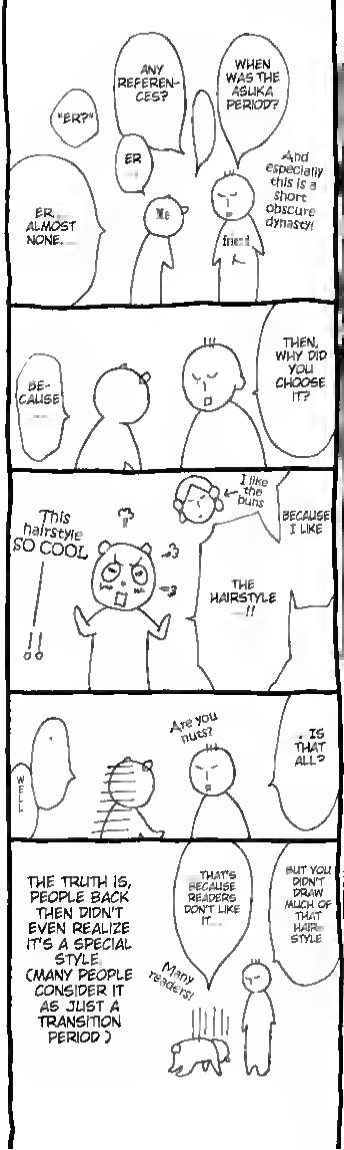
JIYAKUSHI,
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIMUSHI?
...BUT I GUESS,
WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT IN PRIVATE
I DON'T WANT TO GET YOU INTO TROUBLE...
...WELL IT WAS MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO
WHY?
EH?
...THAT'S A TABOO SUBJECT IN OUR VILLAGE!
.....

AT THAT TIME, AZERI-SAMA WAS THE NUMBER ONE CRAFT MASTER IN THE CAPITAL
HIMUSHI WASN'T BAD EITHER,
BUT HE WAS IN AZERI-SAMA'S SHADOW
BUT I HEARD THAT AZERI-SAMA LEFT SHORTLY AFTER THAT.
So he doesn't know why Master secludes himself in the mountain either...
HE WAS JEALOUS
SO HE LEFT THE VILLAGE AND WENT TO THE SOGA CLAN
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS
WHAT'S HIMUSHI-SAMA LIKE?
HE'S CONCEITED AND HATEFUL!
YOU TALKED TO HIM BEFORE?

...HE'S MY UNCLE.
...EH?
HE THINKS HE'S BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE WE'RE FROM A NOBLE LINE IN BAEKJE.
REALLY?
WHO KNOWS!
Indeed!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO ANYWAY?
...Did Himushi-sama
hate Master and try to harm him?
OI, JIYAKU-SHI!
WHAT?
OH, NOTHING.
WHERE'S JU?

HE SAID HE HAD TO GO OUTSIDE
BUT IT'S SO LATE
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM
IT'S PROBABLY SMOKING OFF SOMEWHERE
OH, UMM.
important
What's taking them so long?
KLANK
GASP
JIYAKUSHI?
JIU?


WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?
pop
!!
muffle
THE END


ANY REFERENCES?
WHEN WAS THE ASUKA PERIOD?
"ER?"
ER
ER, ALMOST NONE...
Me
Friend
And especially this is a short obscure dynasty!
BECAUSE...
THEN, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
This hairstyle SO COOL
I like the buns
BECAUSE I LIKE
THE HAIRSTYLE...!!
WELL...
Are you nuts?
...IS THAT ALL?
THE TRUTH IS, PEOPLE BACK THEN DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT'S A SPECIAL STYLE. (MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER IT AS JUST A TRANSITION PERIOD.)
THAT'S BECAUSE READERS DON'T LIKE IT...
Many readers!
BUT YOU DIDN'T DRAW MUCH OF THAT HAIRSTYLE

Afterword

THANKS FOR READING ALL THE WAY HERE!
HI, EVERYONE, I'M TAKAHISA TOHRU!
AND IT SCARES ME IN MANY ASPECTS!
THIS IS MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT A HISTORICAL (AND A SERIES!)
HISTORY IS ALWAYS MY FAVORITE SUBJECT! WHETHER EASTERN OR WESTERN, I WANTED TO DRAW A HISTORICAL MANGA.
I especially love China and the Middle-east
I hear that historical BL is very challenging...
Can't be!
TO BE HONEST, WHEN I FIRST SUBMITTED MY STORY PROPOSAL, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD PASS

read this way

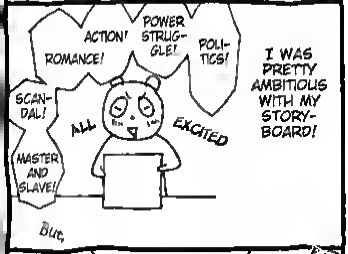
...ORIGINALLY, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A 2-3 CHAPTER STORY BUT IT WAS ALL THANKS TO MY EDITORS AND MY READERS THAT IT BECAME A TWO-VOLUME SERIES.

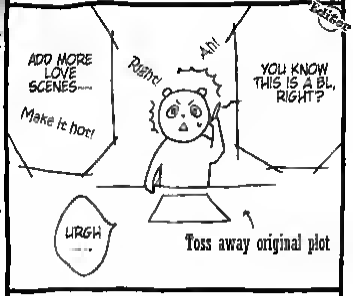
(ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WANTED IT TO BE SERIALIZED)

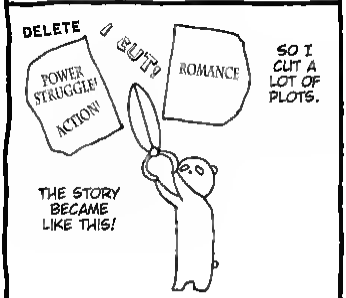
See you next time!

SPECIAL THANKS TO MY ASSISTANTS (FOR BOTH BOOK-1 AND BOOK-2)

U-CHAN, KANA-CHAN, KAYU-CHAN, TOMO-CHAN, MAI-CHAN, MY MOM AND DAD!
2008. 9.







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